

# PSA Members in England Northern Ireland & Scotland

## Celebrating Success

Congratulations to the following members for obtaining PSA Distinctions:

EPSA	Robin Price	Lancashire
PPSA	Paul Burwood	London
	Sue Critchlow	Southport
QPSA	Terry George	Tenterden
	Lorraine Pinder	West Kirby

And congratulations to the following PSA members for achieving FIAP distinctions:

EFIAP/d3	David Wheeler	Smethwick
	Alan Young	Nottingham
EFIAP/d1	Christopher Gledhil	Chichester
EFIAP/p	Wendy Allard	Camborne
EFIAP/g	Charles Ashton	Arden
	Cyril Boyd	Newtownabbey
	Ann Healey	Molesey
	Corrine Kozok	Winchester
	Jennifer Webster	Bromsgrove
EFIAP/s	Carol McNiven-Young	Derby
	Ian Montague	Faversham
EFIAP	Paul Burwood	Field End
	Jay Hallsworth	Gloucester
	Andrew Hersom	Hull
	Robert Palmer	Mansfield
	Robin Price	Lancashire
	Gill Steyn	Peterborough
AFIAP	Terry George	Rye
	Mathew Hoar	Stafford
	David Jellie	Bromsgrove
	Tim Sanders	Bideford
	Carol Watson	Lytham St Annes
	Gordon Watson	Lytham St Annes

E&OE

Results for Scotland are delayed.

Note: FIAP 2024 applications will require prints.

## Changes in Membership Support

Andrew Hersom is now supporting members in Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as England. This is because there no one who has expressed any willingness to support members, who lives in Northern Ireland or Scotland. Hence the title of the newsletter has been changed (the order of countries is alphabetical). I also just use the one email address now: [andrewhersom@gmail.com](mailto:andrewhersom@gmail.com) . Ian Ledgard continues to look after Wales.

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## Membership Questions

It was with sadness I learnt of the sudden death of PSA's membership officer in Oklahoma, John Key. He was always so friendly, efficient, helpful and patiently answered questions or problems sent to him and we shall miss him a lot.

I can answer most membership (and other) questions and if I don't know I can usually find someone else who does.

If you have any problems relating to payment of membership fees or changing membership details just contact [membership@psa-photo.org](mailto:membership@psa-photo.org) and hopefully someone should get back to you soonish.

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## Stars and ROPA

If you are thinking of applying for PSA STARS or ROPA distinctions, see <https://psa-photo.org/page/mo-ropa> . If you need a record of what PSA holds on EDAS please feel free to contact me. Quite a number of members have been helped with support in this way and have been successful in applications.

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## The Two Davids Go To India With PSA

David Woodthorpe PPSA and David Price MPSA

Earlier this year PSA held its very first Photo Gathering outside America. It was held in Jaisalmer, India at a time to coincide with the annual 3 day Jaisalmer Desert Festival. The PSA gathering, which was a nine day event, was attended by over 120 participants from 13 countries including two of us from England. We are members of both Keswick Photographic Society and West Cumbria Photo Group.

Jaisalmer "The Golden city" is a city in the Indian state of Rajasthan. The town stands on a ridge of yellow sandstone and is crowned by the ancient Jaisalmer Fort. This fort contains a royal palace and several ornate Jain temples. Many of the houses and temples of both the fort and of the town below are built of finely sculptured sandstone.



The town lies in the heart of the Thar Desert (the Great Indian Desert). We arrived a day early and spent the afternoon acclimatising and getting our bearings. There were three hotels selected by the PSA, each of which reserved rooms for this event. We chose to stay at a characterful Haveli Hotel close to the walls of the city fort and so were able to walk to the lake, the stadium and to the elevated fort itself. After registration the following evening we were entertained by musicians and dancers.



The photography started in earnest the following morning with an early start to catch the sunrise over Gadsisar Lake.



After breakfast it was a tour of the city with 4 models dressed in traditional Rajasthani costume, who had been hired for the week





They were very accommodating to lots of instructions from many eager photographers and enhanced the scenery somewhat. Then it was out to a village where we photographed camel herders. Like all the days it was photography, photography and more photography. The following day, Thursday, PSA had organised a trip to a village called Khichan where thousands of Demoiselle Cranes over-winter. They are fed by the local population and enjoy a warm climate before returning over the Himalayas in the spring.



Having been to Khichan on a previous trip we organised our own trip and visited a small rural village deep in the desert. On our way we met a camel herder and a goat herder by a lake. We also tasted camel's milk.



In the village we were treated like VIPs by villagers who rarely saw westerners. There are many such villages in India even to this day. The residents of many rural communities have no need and no desire to leave their neighbourhoods. The joy of such expeditions is that no-one is seeking payment for their portraits, quite the opposite is the case. They clamour to have their photo taken and for their image to be transported to the west! We were provided with a wonderful meal, though it was difficult to enjoy it with the whole village crammed into a small room to welcome us and we were the only ones eating. However, the village elders began to play local instruments and sing to us and many locals joined in. It was a magical experience.

For the next three days we spent our time from morning 'til night enjoying the spectacles of the Desert Festival. The first day involved a major procession of the many contestants through the fort to the stadium. It was a very noisy



and bustling affair. Over the three days there were all sorts of competitions involving local customs, like Turban Tying, Camel Polo, Camel races, folk music, the longest moustache and best kept beards, camel decorating, traditional costume and adornment competitions. The border guards performed highly skilled acrobatics on horse and camel as well as military drills and horse races. Each day culminated in folk music of a very high standard and was very professionally presented until by around 9pm a fireworks display closed the events.





Over the next two days there were outings to bustling villages, deserted villages, to Jaisalmer Fort and to Khuri where there was a photo shoot in the sand dunes of the Thar Desert.



The final day allowed for free time before the valedictory function and banquet. We had another walk around the fort and visited the lake. It turned out to be a good visit where we found a very photogenic character just before our holiday ended.



It was a very full programme where many aspects of photography were possible, from Landscape, Architecture, Sport, Travel, Portrait, Wildlife and more. Many friendships were formed between photographers from all over the world. The cost was only \$360, plus flights and accommodation. How the PSA delivered so much for so little was quite astounding. We were provided with all sorts of goodies, several really impressive meals, packed lunches during the festival, transfers to and from the airport, transport throughout, entry fees, the hire of models and much more. The organisers had put a lot of effort and hard work into organising a highly successful event for which we are very grateful.

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## Online Education Courses

For the most up to date information please visit the PSA website. Remember all on-line courses are free to members; you just need to log into your account and go to <https://psa-photo.org/page/online-courses> to sign up for a course today.

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## Forthcoming Exhibitions

SMETHWICK (England), Entries due Nov 7, 2023. PIDC, PIDM, ND, Nature Prints, Large Color Prints, Large Mono Prints. <http://smethwickinternational.com>

EDIDIGITAL (Scotland), Entries due Sept 30, 2023. PIDC: Open, Creative, Landscape, ND: PTD. <https://eps.myphotoclub.com.au>

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## New Discounts

Worth a look - <https://psa-photo.org/page/discounts>

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## GDPR

Your contact details are only stored to enable me to send information to you from time to time. If, however, you do not want to be contacted by the CMD England let me know and I will endeavour to stop the emailings.